



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet.

John 13:3-5

Leading by Serving

Do you remember inverse proportions from math? Maybe the concept still shares some grey space in your head these days along with everything else that's competing for a home there? Basically inverse proportions go like this: One thing goes up and another thing goes down. The more the one goes up, the more the other goes down. Inverse proportions.

Don't you think it's tempting to see life that way: strong leaders go up and at the same time weak failures go down? The application? Be a leader. Be a winner. Get there first or someone else will go up and win, while you go down and fail.

In the eyes of many, Jesus was on the failing end of an inverse proportion. Jesus taught love, brought himself down and lifted up other people. Crazy failure talk and crazy failure walk to so many people, right? God put all things under Jesus' power and Jesus used all that power and authority to serve other people. From feet washing to dying on the cross for the sins of his friends and for the sins of the world, Jesus used his everything to serve and to love.

Lowering himself to love and to lead worked out "OK" for Jesus, didn't it? He lowered himself and by doing so defeated sin and death. God promises servant love and leadership will also work out "OK" for you. Love your friends enough to lead them to Jesus. Love them enough to serve them the way Jesus loved and served you. Build them up with Jesus' love.

Look to Jesus for forgiveness when you fail to love and to lead with a servant's heart. He promises that you'll find forgiveness at his cross. Look to Jesus for the strength to serve. He promises you'll find it in his love for you. Some call it crazy failure talk and crazy failure walk. Jesus calls it true leadership.

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, Help us to find peace and comfort in your servant love for us. Move us to love and to serve our friends in ways that will build them up in you. Amen.